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THE WHITE HOUSE

3 July 1945

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:

The Federal Government has been maintaining a work schedule of a six day, 48-hour work week for both the departmental and field service. I believe that the time has now come when we should make a change in this schedule.

It is my desire, therefore, that, with the exception of the War Department, the Navy Department, the Treasury Department, the Veterans' Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Panama Canal, the head of each department or agency establish, effective 1 July 1945, a 44-hour work week. In the case of the departments above named it is desired that they examine their various operations very carefully and put into effect the 44-hour work week as soon as possible.

If the head of any department or agency other than the War Department, the Navy Department, the Treasury Department, the Veterans' Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Panama Canal feels that it is still necessary for him to maintain a 48-hour work week contrary to the general policy above outlined he should apply to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget for an exception to this policy.

It should be clearly understood that a reduction in work hours will not constitute a basis for requests for additional funds or personnel.

/s/ Harry S. Truman